

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

DHA-02 OPR-02 A-01 /068 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3937

INFO DIA DOD WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, ASEC, MOPS

SUBJECT: AFTERMATH OF ARMY VICTORY OVER GUERRILLAS AT MONTE CHINGOLO

REF: BA-8374

1. SCOPE OF GUERRILLA DEFEAT IS EVEN GREATER THAN IT INITIALLY APPEARED. PRESS REPORTS NOW INDICATE THAT WELL OVER 100 GUERRILLAS WERE KILLED IN THE VARIOUS ATTACKS AND AN UNKNOWN NUMBER CAPTURED. LOSSES OF SECURITY FORCES AS INDICATED IN REFTEL WERE APPROXIMATELY 12 BUT IN ADDITION SOME 10 CIVILIANS WERE KILLED IN CROSSFIRE.

2. MILITARY SOURCES INDICATE THE ATTACKS AT MONTE CHINGOLO, LA PLATA AND THE BRIDGES ACROSS THE RIOCHUELO WERE CARRIED OUT BY ELEMENTS OF THE ERP WITH SOME SUPPORT FROM THE MONTONEROS. ONE FACT WHICH HAS STRUCK ALL OBSERVERS WAS THE EXTREME YOUTH OF MOST OF THE ATTACKERS, PLUS THE HIGH PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN INVOLVED. SOME EYE WITNESSES HAVE REPORTED THE MAJORITY OF THE ATTACKERS SEEMED TO BE NO MORE THAN 17 OR 18 AND SOME CONSIDERABLY YOUNGER.

IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THIS INDICATES ERP IS SCRAPING THE BOTTOM OF THE BARREL OR WHETHER THEY SENT IN YOUNG RECRUITS AS THE MOST EXPENDABLE.

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3. THE SECURITY FORCES' SUCCESS IS NOT ONLY NOTEWORTHY BECAUSE OF ITS SCOPE BUT ALSO BECAUSE OF THE MANNER IN WHICH IT WAS BROUGHT ABOUT. OBVIOUSLY, THE ARMY INTELLIGENCE IS FUNCTIONING BETTER. THE ARMY WAS FOREWARNED AND WAS PREPARED. FURTHER, THE RESPONSE OF ALL THREE SERVICES WAS RAPID AND WELL COORDINATED.

4. LORENZO MIGUEL'S EFFORT TO USE THE ATTACK AT MONTE CHINGOLO AS A PRETEXT TO INTERVENE BUENOS AIRES PROVINCE IS AN INTERESTING POLITICAL SIDELIGHT OF THE INCIDENT (SEE SEPTTEL).
HILL

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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